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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,736	06/23/2003	Melanee A. Davis	2262.MDAV.NP	9033
26986	7590	06/06/2005	EXAMINER	
MORRISS O'BRYANT COMPAGNI, P.C.			TRAN, KHOI H	
136 SOUTH MAIN STREET			ART UNIT	
SUITE 700			PAPER NUMBER	
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84101			3651	

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/601,736	Applicant(s) DAVIS, MELANEE A.	
	Examiner Khoi H Tran	Art Unit 3651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8, 11-15 and 20-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 10, and 16-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

KHOI H. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 9, 10, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gould et al. 4,300,040 in view of Fredman 6,526,393.

Gould '040 discloses a method for vending and returning videos per claimed invention. The method comprises dispensing the selected video to a customer upon proper payment or credit. The method comprises allowing the return of said video by mail or postage. Once the rental video has been returned, it is obvious that a return credit will be noted by the system. The vended item is at least temporary purchased during the vending procedure. If the vended or temporary purchased item is not returned, it is obvious that the user would have to permanently purchase the item. However, Gould '040 is silent as to the specific of providing a prepaid postage on said vended video.

Fredman '393 teaches that prepaid postage, provided by a vender to a customer, generates greater response rate from the customer. Fredman '393 also teaches that prepaid postage is more convenient for a customer since the trip to the post office has been saved.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided prepaid postage to Gould '393 vended videos because it facilitates a more convenient mailing method for the customer to send the returned items, as taught by Fredman '393. Such modification will also generate greater response rate from the customer.

In regards to claim 3, it is obvious that rental records would have to be kept for each vended video so that said video can be accounted. It is also commonly well known that each vended video record would have to be linked to a respective customer account so that the customer would be responsible for the vended video.

In regards to claim 10, Gould '040 modified system provides the option for mailing the vended videos back to a central station. It is commonly obvious that the received videos would have to be process and restock back into the kiosk so that the videos can be re-vended.

In regards to claims 16-19, it is commonly well known that credit for a non-returned vended item will be given, once the vended item has been returned. Various credit reimbursements to rental account is commonly well known. Since no unexpected result has been demonstrated, reimbursement of cash or credit to a rental account would merely be a matter of design choice.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 05/02/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued that Gould et al. 4,300,040 provides items for rental only and not for "purchase". This argument is not persuasive. As pointed out in

paragraph 2 above, Gould ' 040 does in fact provide entertainment items for purchase in case a user would like to keep the vended products. If the user would like to return the vended item(s), appropriate funding will be credited.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, it is the teaching of convenience and higher customer response rate due to prepaid postage that provides the motivation to combine the references. In addition, Applicant has failed to point out any clear error for combining the references.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

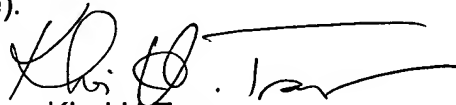
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khoi H Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-6919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Matecki can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Khoi H Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3651

KHT
05/27/2005